

RESOLUTIONS

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT—CREATION OF HOSPITAL DISTRICTS—POWERS

H. J. R. No. 51

Proposing an Amendment to Article IX of the Constitution of the State of Texas by adding thereto a new Section to be known as Section 9 to provide that the Legislature may authorize the creation of hospital districts composed of all or part of one or more counties; the assumption by the district of any included city, town or county hospital indebtedness and the transfer of all hospital facilities thereof to the district; the issuance of bonds for hospital purposes and the levy of taxes to pay the district's bonds, assumed indebtedness, and for operating and maintaining the district; providing other terms and conditions for accomplishing the purposes of this Amendment.

Be it resolved by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

Section 1. That Article IX of the Constitution of the State of Texas be, and the same is hereby, amended by adding thereto another Section to be designated as Section 9, which shall read as follows:

"Section 9. The Legislature may by law provide for the creation, establishment, maintenance and operation of hospital districts composed of one or more counties or all or any part of one or more counties with power to issue bonds for the purchase, construction, acquisition, repair or renovation of buildings and improvements and equipping same, for hospital purposes; providing for the transfer to the hospital district of the title to any land, buildings, improvements and equipment located wholly within the district which may be jointly or separately owned by any city, town or county, providing that any district so created shall assume full responsibility for providing medical and hospital care for its needy inhabitants and assume the outstanding indebtedness incurred by cities, towns and counties for hospital purposes prior to the creation of the district, if same are located wholly within its boundaries, and a pro rata portion of such indebtedness based upon the then last approved tax assessment rolls of the included cities, towns and counties if less than all the territory thereof is included within the district boundaries; providing that after its creation no other municipality or political subdivision shall have the power to levy taxes or issue bonds or other obligations for hospital purposes or for providing medical care within the boundaries of the district; providing for the levy of annual taxes at a rate not to exceed seventy-five cents (75¢) on the one hundred dollar valuation of all taxable property within such district for the purpose of meeting the requirements of the district's bonds, the indebtedness assumed by it and its maintenance and operating expenses, providing that such district shall not be created or such tax authorized unless approved by a majority of the qualified property taxpaying electors thereof voting at an election called for the purpose; and providing further that the support and maintenance of the district's hospital system shall never become a charge against or obligation of the State of Texas nor shall any direct appropriation be made by the Legislature for the construction, maintenance or improvement of any of the facilities of such district.

"Provided, however, that no district shall be created except by act of the Legislature and then only after thirty (30) days' public notice to the district affected, and in no event may the Legislature provide for a district to be created without the affirmative vote of a majority of the taxpaying voters in the district concerned."

57TH REGULAR SESSION

Sec. 2. The foregoing Constitutional Amendment shall be submitted to the qualified electors of the State at the General Election to be held the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November, 1962, at which election all ballots shall have printed thereon:

"FOR the Constitutional Amendment authorizing the Legislature to create hospital districts and prescribing limitations upon the powers of such districts."

"AGAINST the Constitutional Amendment authorizing the Legislature to create hospital districts and prescribing limitations upon the powers of such districts."

Sec. 3. The Governor of Texas shall issue the necessary proclamation for the election and this Amendment shall be published in the manner and for the length of time as required by the Constitution and laws of this State.

Adopted by the House, May 2, 1961: Yeas 141, Nays 3; House concurred in Senate amendment, May 17, 1961: Yeas 138, Nays 2; passed the Senate, as amended, May 12, 1961: Yeas 28, Nays 0.

Filed without Governor's signature, June 17, 1961.

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT—CREATION OF TWO HOSPITAL DISTRICTS IN BRAZORIA COUNTY

H. J. R. No. 70.

Proposing an Amendment to Article IX of the Constitution of the State of Texas by adding thereto a new Section authorizing the creation of two (2) hospital districts in Brazoria County, one to include all or part of the West Columbia, Brazoria and Damon Independent School Districts, and the other coterminous with the Sweeny Independent School District, providing for a possible consolidation of the two, providing a mode of funding and also authorizing construction, equipping, maintaining, and financing of a home for the aged in Titus County.

Be it resolved by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

Section 1. Article IX of the Constitution of the State of Texas is amended by adding thereto a new Section to read as follows:

"Section 10(a). The Legislature may authorize the creation of two (2) hospital districts in Brazoria County, one of which shall include all or part of the West Columbia, Brazoria, and Damon Independent School Districts and the other coterminous with the Sweeny Independent School District. The qualified electorate of the hospital districts may, by majority vote of each such hospital district, consolidate the Sweeny Hospital District into the Damon, West Columbia, and Brazoria Hospital District at any time subsequent to the organization of the separate hospital districts.

"Such districts, if created, may be authorized to levy a tax not to exceed twenty-five cents (25¢) on the one hundred dollar valuation of taxable property within the districts, provided no tax may be levied until approved by a majority vote of the participating resident, qualified, property taxpaying voters who may have duly rendered their property for taxation. The maximum rate of tax may be changed at subsequent elections, provided existing obligations are not impaired, but in no event shall any change of rate exceed twenty-five cents (25¢) per one hundred dollar valuation.